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Representative Daniel Cahill, Co-Chair
State House, Room 527A
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Senator Cindy F. Friedman, Co-Chair
State House, Room 313
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Representative Andres X. Vargas
State House, Room 26
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Senator Pavel M. Payano
State House, Room 413-B
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Representative Marcus S. Vaughn
State House, Room 473B
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

August 6, 2026

Re: PROTECT Act

Dear Conference Committee Members,

I write to offer my sincere thanks, on behalf of the Boston Bar Association, for including detainee protections (Section 6) in the conference-committee report on the Protect Act, as well as the expanded "curtilage" language for the courthouse arrest ban (Section 12).

These measures, along with the notice requirement for I-9 audits that was also in the final bill (Section 8), will make a real difference and help demonstrate—as part of the broader legislation—that Massachusetts is taking a firm, public stance against overly aggressive and intrusive immigration-enforcement tactics by the federal government. Thanks to you...

- The section on detainees will ensure they are notified of their right to counsel and how to obtain legal representation, as well as the right to remain silent, while also requiring covered facilities to offer confidential, unmonitored attorney-client telephone communications and providing that information on a detainee's updated whereabouts is made available to counsel.
- The courthouse-curtilage provision will help maintain the dignity, decorum, and authority of the courts—representing an equal branch of government, alongside the executive—and avoid deterring people from attending court proceedings.
- The audit notification requirement will protect employees and employers alike, and the broader community, by helping to ensure that properly authorized workers in Massachusetts have the information they need to prepare by gathering in advance all relevant documents.

I was pleased to see Governor Healey ratify your work—and that of the Black & Latino Caucus that filed the original bill—by signing the Protect Act into law, and I know that our members will appreciate your roles in leading this effort, in support of the right to counsel, the administration of justice, worker rights, and ultimately the rule of law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sh. Nair".

Suma V. Nair
BBA President

cc: House Speaker Ronald Mariano
Senate President Karen Spilka